

Request for Informal Public Comment

COMAR 10.24.11: State Health Plan for Facilities and Services: General Surgical Services

Background

The current State Health Plan (“SHP”) chapter on ambulatory surgical services, COMAR 10.24.11, provides guidance for review of Certificate of Need (“CON”) applications involving the development of surgical facilities for the provision of ambulatory surgical services. The Maryland Health Care Commission (“MHCC”) has determined that this SHP chapter should be given priority for updating.

MHCC Staff has developed an amended regulation to replace COMAR 10.24.11. This draft SHP chapter is broader in scope; it is applicable to both inpatient and outpatient surgical services in hospital and freestanding surgical facilities. The draft SHP chapter also provides guidance regarding the review of proposals to develop outpatient surgical capacity that is not subject to the CON review process (i.e. requests for a Determination of Coverage).

Request for Public Comment

MHCC is interested in receiving public comment on the draft State Health Plan chapter. The draft chapter can be found at the homepage of the MHCC website under “MHCC Latebreaking Items” and will also be available on the “Request for Public Comment” page, which can be accessed under the “Health Care Community” or “Policymakers” headings located on the home page: <http://mhcc.maryland.gov/>. Comments on the draft SHP chapter should be forwarded no later than **4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 15, 2010** to: Eileen Fleck, Project Manager, Center for Hospital Services, Maryland Health Care Commission, 4160 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. Comments may be sent via e-mail to efleck@mhcc.state.md.us

These “informal” comments will be used to further develop the amended SHP chapter into a proposed regulation for consideration by MHCC. The process of taking the proposed regulation to a final regulation will involve a “formal” review and comment period.